

SUCCESS STORY

A.C.&S, Inc.

West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership

“WVMEP was an essential asset in establishing and implementing the system, and continues to provide invaluable assistance in improving our management processes. AC&S is now in a position to support a continuing effort to improve the industry's management of chemicals.”
Dean Cordle, President and CEO

Raising the Standards for Chemical Manufacturer

ABOUT. AC&S, Inc., located in Nitro, West Virginia, began serving the chemical industry in 1986 by cleaning and repairing railcars. AC&S quickly expanded operations to chemical manufacturing and blending. Today, AC&S is a custom chemical manufacturer, manufacturing petroleum dyes and a wide range of specialty chemicals. The company has 50 employees.

THE CHALLENGE. AC&S wanted to register to the ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and Responsible Care® 14001 standards. ISO 9001 is a quality management system, ISO 14001 is an environmental management system, and RC 14001 is an environmental, health, safety, and security management system. All three standards would help AC&S meet the expectations of existing customers and diversify its customer base. AC&S and the West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WVMEP), a NIST MEP affiliate, worked together to implement the quality standards, provide needed training, and complete third-party certification.

MEP'S ROLE. First, experts from WVMEP evaluated the company and performed a gap analysis to review the current quality management system and assess the improvements needed to pass a certification audit for the standards. After briefing management on the findings, WVMEP trained AC&S staff in developing policies to meet the quality objectives. They completed the needed documentation, including procedures, work instructions, and forms, and initiated the new system. Once the new management system structure was in place, AC&S performed internal audits to address non-conformances. WVMEP conducted a final review and agreed that AC&S was ready for a third-party registration audit. The company achieved certification in all three standards, retaining sales while gaining access to new markets. The new system has improved organizational efficiencies, improved the company's safety culture, and reduced the number of recordable injuries. WVMEP continues to conduct the internal audit program for all three systems and AC&S continues making business improvements and acquiring new customers.



RESULTS



Reduced OSHA recordable injury rates by **40% - 60%**



Achieved ISO **9001**, ISO 14001, and RC 14001 certifications



Reduced the manufacturing time of certain chemical processes by **25%**

NEXT STEPS

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